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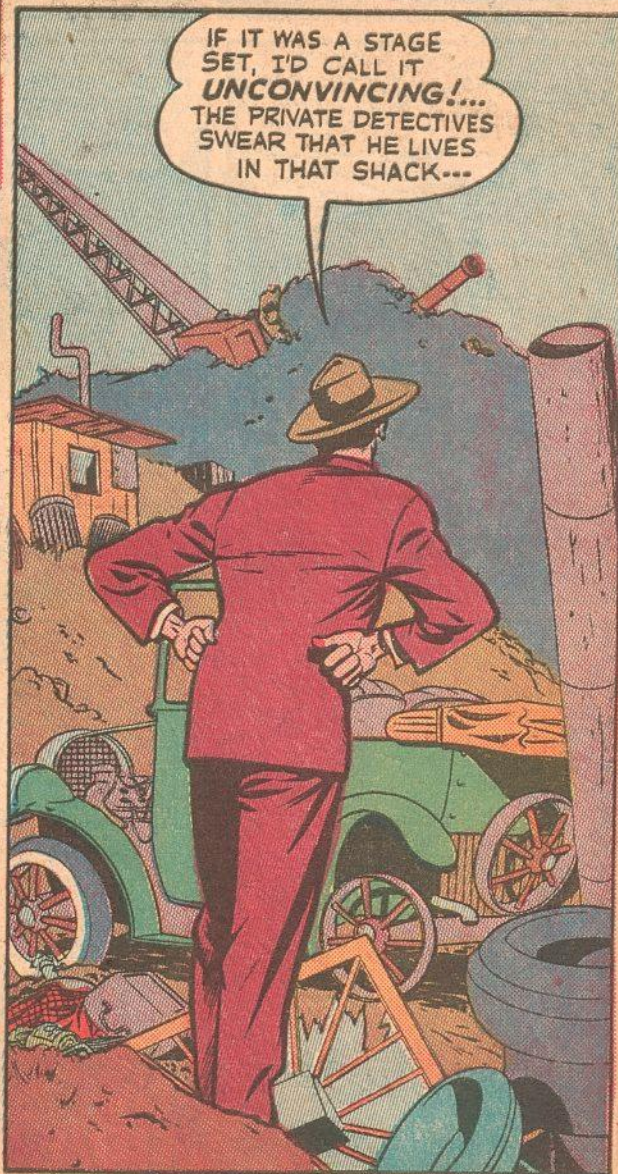
SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1944

THE

SPIRIT

ACROSS THE RIVER FROM CENTRAL CITY LIE THE CITY DUMPS... WHERE LIFE'S TIRED AND WEARY AND BROKEN RUBBLE RESTS DISCARDED AND UNWANTED IN LONELY DETERIORATION! IT IS STRANGE, THEN, THAT IN THE GREY HOURS OF THE MORNING, A SLEEK SEDAN COUGHS TO A HALT AT THIS FORSAKEN SPOT... AND A WELL DRESSED MAN STEPS OUT.....

IF IT WAS A STAGE SET, I'D CALL IT **UNCONVINCING!**... THE PRIVATE DETECTIVES SWEAR THAT HE LIVES IN THAT SHACK...





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



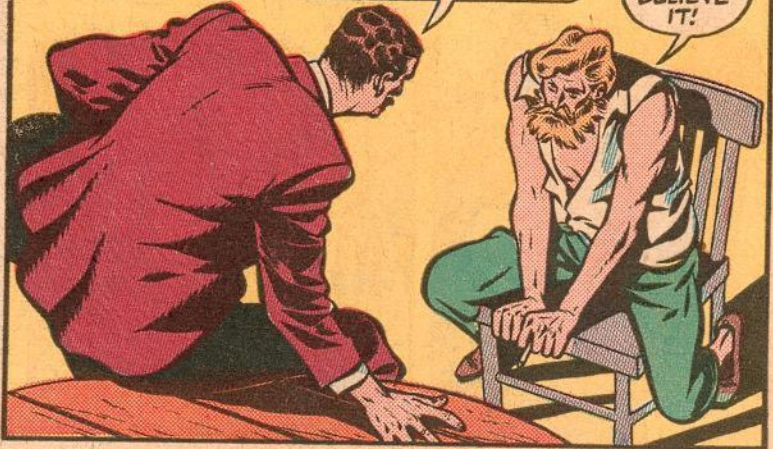
SHE'S NEVER REALLY BEEN A FIRST-RATE ACTRESS SINCE YOU BROKE UP!

I'VE READ SOME GOOD NOTICES -- IN THE PAPERS THAT COME HERE -- IN THE TRASH!



BUT SHE'S ONLY BEEN **COASTING!** THIS NEW SHOW I'M PRODUCING FOR HER IS HER **LAST CHANCE!** SHE **MUST** HAVE A LEADING MAN WHO'LL MAKE HER **ACT AS SHE USED TO!**

IS THAT TRUE?
---NO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



JOHN, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE -- FOR **MY** SAKE -- FOR **CLARA'S** SAKE -- YOU **MUST** TAKE A PART IN THE SHOW! COME HOME WITH ME!

...NO,
I ----



BRISCOE WAS CONVINCING -- AND A SHORT TIME LATER...

DON'T STARE, WIGGINS! DRAW A BATH FOR MR. MORTIMER -- THEN HURRY OUT AND BUY SOME SHIRTS, SOCKS, NECKTIES -- QUICK!



MY SUIT SHOULD FIT YOU FAIRLY WELL! FINISHED, JOHN?

ALMOST! YOUR SHAVING SOAP ISN'T THE KIND I'M USED TO!



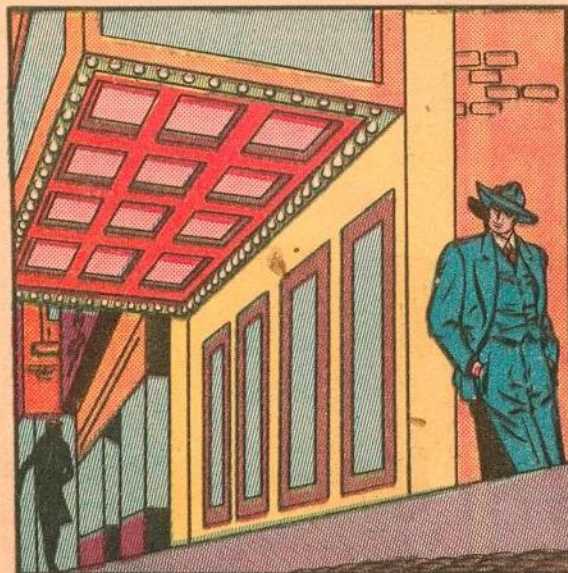
THERE! -- NOW TURN AROUND AND LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YOU!

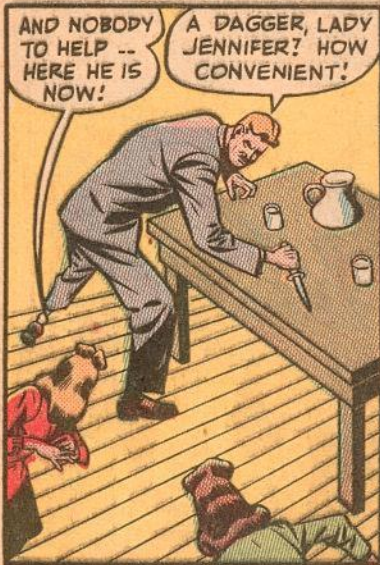


JOHN, YOU LOOK AS GOOD AS EVER! **BETTER!**

THANKS! NOW, LET'S SEE CLARA AND GET IT OVER!











YOU IDIOTIC BUSYBODY! WHY---

LOOK WHERE THE WINE SPATTERED YOUR SLEEVE!



IT WAS FULL OF POWERFUL ACID! IF IT ATE THAT CLOTH, WHAT WOULD IT HAVE DONE TO MISS DEFOE'S THROAT?

THIS PROVES IT!



YOU'VE NEVER FORGIVEN CLARA FOR JILTING YOU! YOU WANTED TO KILL HER ---

YOU'RE ONLY AN AMATEUR ACTOR, BRISCOE! TELL THE TRUTH!



YOU PLANTED THESE DANGERS YOURSELF--AND TRIED TO BLAME MORTIMER!

IMPOSSIBLE! WHY SHOULD BRISCOE WANT TO KILL ME?



I LENT HIM MOST OF MY MONEY TO STAGE THIS SHOW! IF I DIED, HE'D BE A PAUPER!

BUT IF YOU LIVE, AND MARRY HIM--HE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE, EH?



YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY! ... STARTED FORWARD EACH TIME TO AVERT THE DANGER--BEFORE ANYONE **KNEW** IT WAS A DANGER!

PREPOSTEROUS!



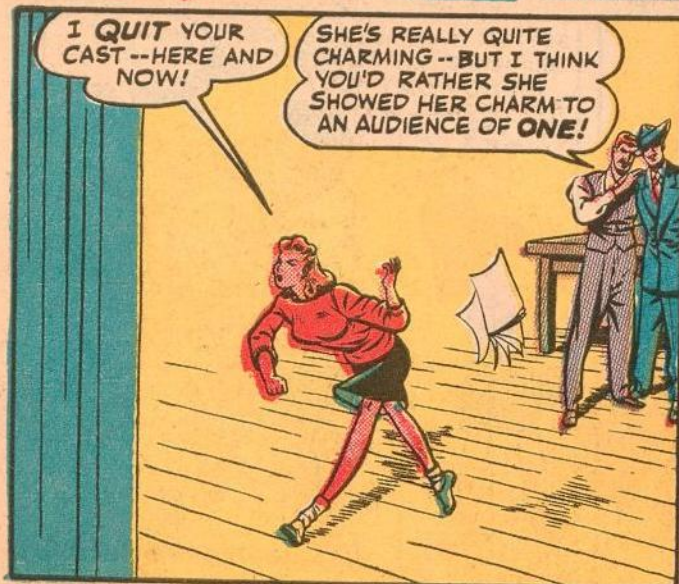
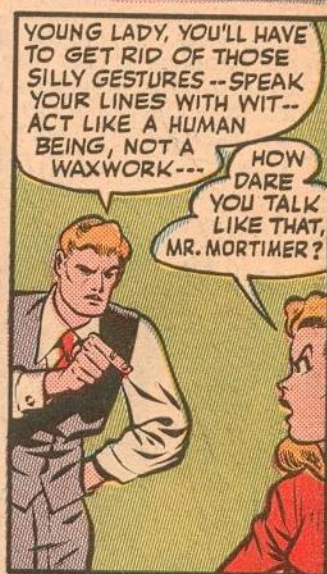
I MOVED FAST ENOUGH TO BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH--OR YOU'D BE POSING NOW AS MISS DEFOE'S **RESCUER!**

I WON'T STAY AND LISTEN!



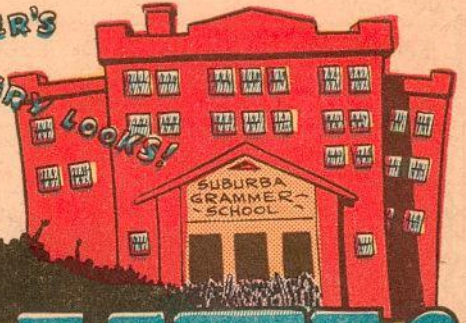
BETTER WAIT, MR. BRISCOE! THIS KNIFE YOU PLANTED MIGHT **HURT** YOU!

NO--PUT IT DOWN!--

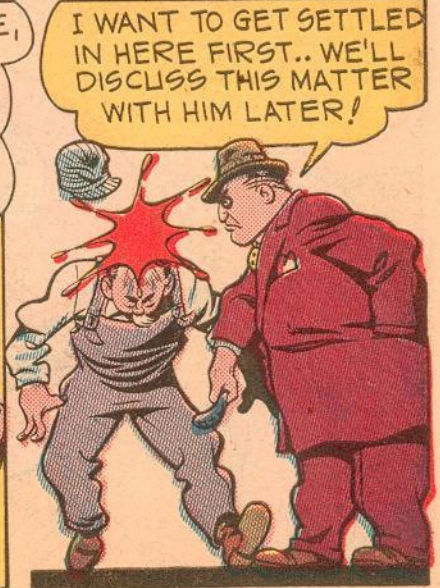
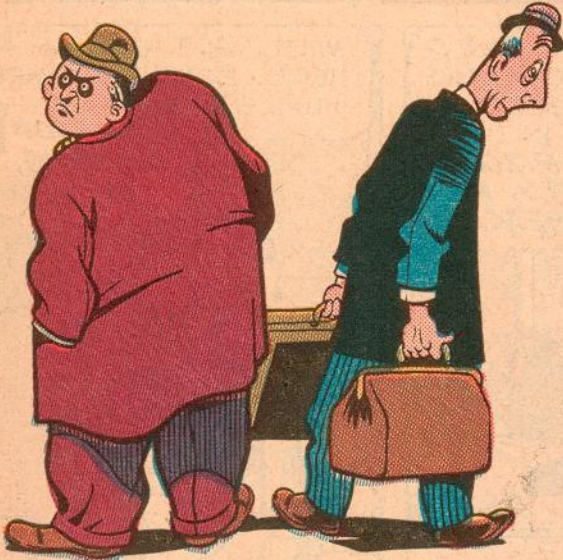


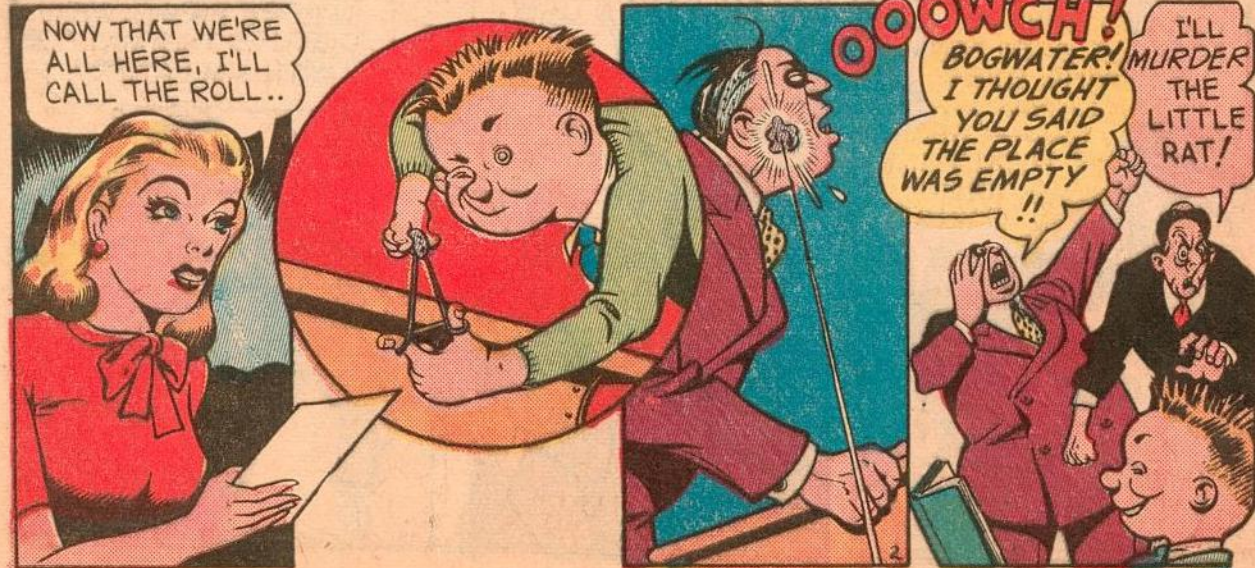
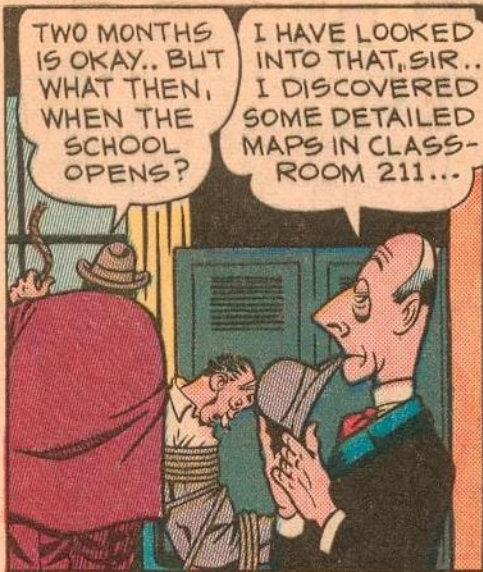
NO MORE PENCILS!
NO MORE BOOKS!
NO MORE TEACHER'S
ANGRY LOOKS!

By Klaus Nordling



LADY LUCK

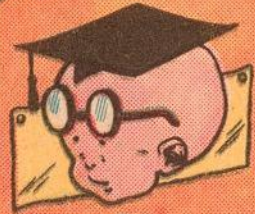








INTELLECTUAL AMOS



By
Andre LeBlanc

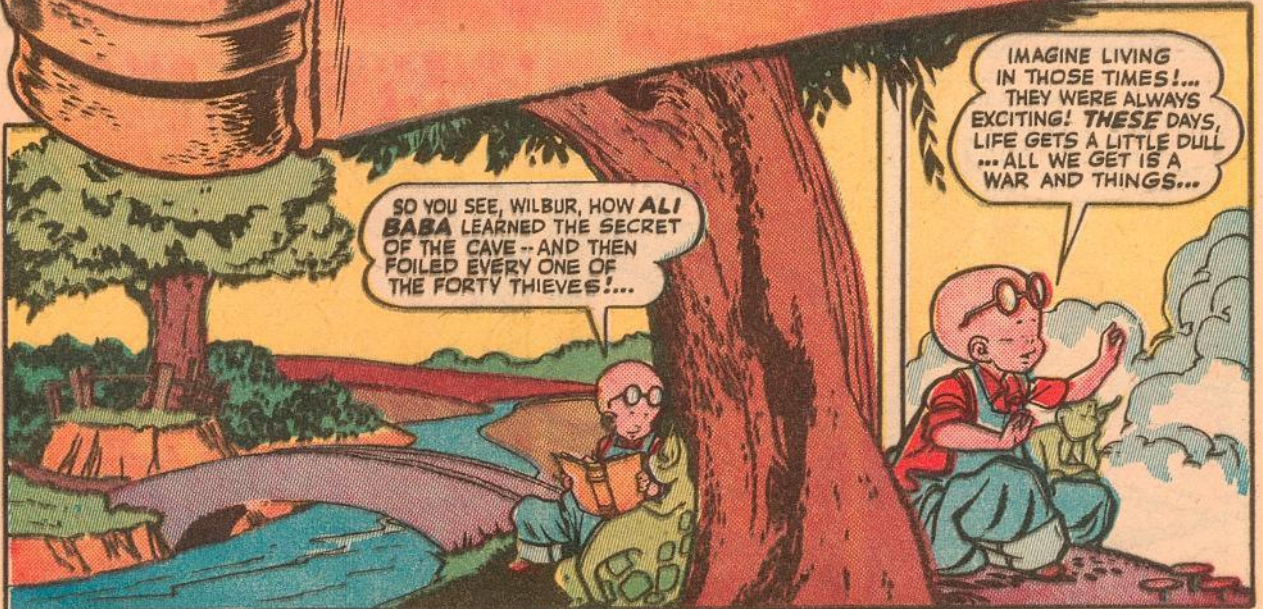


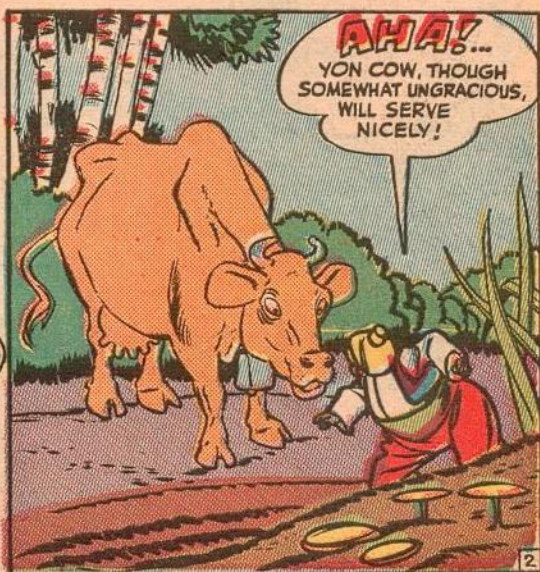
ARABIAN
NIGHTS

VOL
I

SO YOU SEE, WILBUR, HOW ALI
BABA LEARNED THE SECRET
OF THE CAVE--AND THEN
FOILED EVERY ONE OF
THE FORTY THIEVES!...

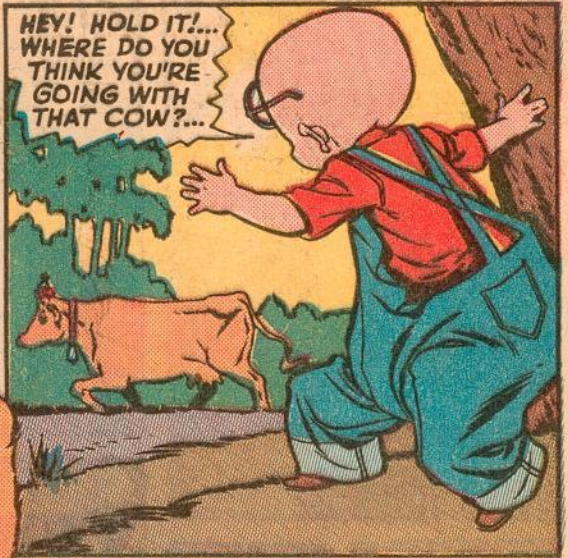
IMAGINE LIVING
IN THOSE TIMES!...
THEY WERE ALWAYS
EXCITING! **THESE** DAYS,
LIFE GETS A LITTLE DULL
... ALL WE GET IS A
WAR AND THINGS...







COME, COME!...
UNWORTHY BEAST!
MOVE THY STUMPS
AND WE WILL
BE OFF!



HEY! HOLD IT!...
WHERE DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
GOING WITH
THAT COW?...



TO NEW YORK, OF
COURSE! I CERTAINLY
DON'T THINK I'M GOING
TO MECCA ON
THIS BEAST!



LOOK, PAL...
YOU WON'T BE
GOING TO MECCA
OR ANYWHERE
ELSE! AT LEAST
NOT ON ELOISE!...
WHO ARE YOU?

I AM
ALI BABA!



ALI
BABA?
YOU
MEAN
??

YES! THE "GREAT
PROFILE" OF THE ARABIAN
NIGHTS! ...AT PRESENT,
RETIRED FROM
PUBLIC LIFE!



BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING
OUT HERE? YOU'RE A
CHARACTER IN THE BOOK!

CHARACTER?
ME??...
I ??...



WHY... WITHOUT ME,
THE WHOLE BOOK
COLLAPSES!



WELL, HOW ABOUT THE
FORTY THIEVES? ... DON'T
THEY PLAY AN
IMPORTANT
PART?

OH...
ALLAH!
THOSE FORTY
THIEVES ARE MY
REASON FOR QUITTING!
MY LIFE IS IN
DANGER! WE'RE
ALL IN DANGER!

